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Dividing the Continental Shelf: Potential for Confrontation

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A Research Paper

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A Research Paper

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was used in this report.*

This paper was prepared by [redacted]
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Comments and queries are welcome and may be
directed to the Chief, Geography Division, OGI, on

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The continental shelf, the top of the ocean floor seaward of the territorial sea that is subject to national jurisdiction, underlies more than one-third of the world's oceans. In recent years it has been the subject of numerous, sometimes heated, disputes. Thought to hold 23 percent of the world's reserves and 14 percent of the natural gas, the shelf also contains strategic hard minerals and supports most of the world's richest fishing grounds.

A map of the North Pacific Ocean showing the maritime boundary between the Soviet Union and the United States. The map includes labels for the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait, Aleutian Islands, and the Gulf of Alaska. It also shows the locations of the Soviet Union, United States, and Alaska. A scale bar indicates 500 nautical miles.

A map of the North Pacific Ocean region. The Soviet Union is on the left, and the United States is on the right. The map shows the Bering Sea, Chukotka, Kamchatka, Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands. The 180-degree longitude line is marked, and the 160-degree longitude line is also shown. A scale bar indicates 1000 Kilometers.

A map of the United States with a shaded region in the Pacific Northwest, specifically in the state of Washington, indicating the study area. The map shows the coastline and the border with Canada.

[illegible]

SOVIET UNION
Soviet Far East
Sea of Japan
Korean Peninsula
1000 Kilometers

A map of Southeast Asia showing major countries and cities. The map includes labels for China, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Major cities like Bangkok, Hanoi, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, and Manila are marked. The map also shows the Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, and Indian Ocean. A scale bar indicates 250 km.

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